

**Kauai Testimony Ballot on Hawaii Humpback Whale  
Sanctuary**

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KFTO = Kauai Fishermen and Tour Operators

**Should Sanctuary Expand Whale protections.**

*KFTO: Whale population has gone from 2000 or 3000 in mid 1970's to a current population of around 12000+ according to the Sanctuary's own information. At 6% growth annually, the population will be over 20,000 whales by 2018. We see no purpose in increasing protection. Current laws have more than provided for a return in population. Anything beyond which is added beauracracy.*

- ☒ No Expand  
☐ Expand  
☐ Unsure

NO

Expand the Sanctuary to include all islands all the way around islands out to 100 fathoms (600 feet) depth.

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- ☒ No Expand  
☐ Expand  
☐ Unsure

No

Monk Seals: Expand the Sanctuary to include.

KFTO: Monk seals are clearly endangered, but according to available information the population is growing and pup mortality is down in Human occupied areas. While pup mortality is high and population growth is stagnant in "protected" Northern Hawaiian Island chain. We believe that current laws sufficiently protect Monk seals within the human inhabited islands.

☒ No Expand

☐ Expand

☐ Unsure

NO

Sea Turtles: Expand the Sanctuary to include.

KFTO: Population has dramatically increase since protected from hunting was instituted. No additional protection needed as current laws have providing for large fines have been very successful.

☒ No Expand

☐ Expand

☐ Unsure

NO

Dolphins: Expand the Sanctuary to include.

☒ No Expand

☐ Expand

☐ Unsure

NO

Hawaiian Cultural Heritage: Expand the Sanctuary to include.

KFTO: What? We find this to be a completely unrelated issue that appears to have been added to the Sanctuary's "Vision" to gather political support.

- ☒ No Expand  
☐ Expand  
☐ Unsure

NA

Coral Reef: Expand the Sanctuary to include.

KFTO: Coral reefs are clearly suffering around the state and the world. However, the cause of this decline appears more closely related to problems like agricultural run off, climate change, and general pollution. Efforts to control local run off and silting of reefs would incur better results than limiting ocean use. All the above will be unaffected by Sanctuary expansion, except as by public education.

- ☒ No Expand  
☐ Expand  
☐ Unsure

NA

Vessel Speed Limits During Whale Season

Most whale injuries involving small vessels (non-military or freighters) are a result of the propeller, which does the same damage at 10 knots as it does at 20 knots. More important, is the size of the propeller. None the less, despite the Humpback population doubling, the Sanctuary itself reports little or no recent whale deaths from collision. Many of the reported 'collisions' are, in fact, at dead slow or drifting speed. In these cases the boats seem to come out worse than the whales.

- ☒ No Limit  
☐ Limit To (circle one) 14knts 16knts 18knts  
☐ Unsure

### No Take Zones (fishing)

*KFTO: No take zones may not make sense in Hawaii due the highly mobile nature of most our preferred food species. Blanket moratoriums also have shown to be of marginal value as once they are open there tends to be a sudden over fishing frenzy that leaves the fish population just as bad off as before. Possibly, a better solution would be statewide or island specific, individual species moratoriums that allow fishermen to continue fishing but allow a specific species to recover and reproduce. Enforcement is still reasonably simple as moratorium fish will have a zero bag count. A bounty on invasive/pest fish should be considered. All the above of which can be legislated and managed by DLNR Fish and Wildlife.*

- ☒ No Zones
- ☐ Some Zones
- ☐ All Sanctuary is No Take

No

### No Access Zones: Create zones for species where there is no public access (no fishing, boating, tours, swimming, etc.)

*KFTO: Opposes any kind of limits to the access of Federal Navigable Waters. We lost/gave enough water when the Northern islands were made forbidden. Any attempt to limit water access in favor of the Robinson family under any guise to Niihau will be met with full legal battle.*

- ☒ No Zones
- ☐ Yes, create Zones
- ☐ Unsure

No

### Military Noise Limits(sonar)

KFTO: Goodluck

*We can imagine nothing more impactful than having a jet plane take off in our living rooms, which is no doubt, comparable to what the whales hear when the Navy is testing its equipment. However, we do not see the Navy budging on this, and we do not see the Sanctuary having the leverage to make them.*

☐ No Limit

☒ Limit

☐ Unsure

Limit

Should Sanctuary "Vision" include plan for reducing its size or scope as species are removed from endangered status or reach pre-determined population levels

*KFTO: In light of the rapidly increasing populations of most of the species listed in the Sanctuary's "Vision" we question the future relevance of the Sanctuary already. We surely can see no reason for it to grow. It is understandable that there will continue to be a need for volunteers to continue watching the waters and to report on violations of the existing laws. Also we see no need to repeal the existing laws. Those laws and regulations are working, and working well, but we do not need to pile more laws and regulations on top of them.*

☐ No reduction

☒ Reduce size

☐ Unsure

Reduce

What would the current Humpback population be if there had never been a Sanctuary?

KFTO: Based on numbers taken from The Sanctuary's own literature we question if it would have been any different. At best a few whales, probably far less than 100 out of the current count of 12,000 plus humpbacks, can be directly attributed to Sanctuary involvement. All of these are disentanglements or stranding related. The real savior of the Humpback has simply been the ban on whaling. It seems highly unlikely that they have ever actually directly prevented a collision as is implied by their own 'Top 10 Accomplishments'.

☐ More

☐ Less

☒ About the same

What has been the Sanctuary's Real accomplishments?

KFTO: Many of the items listed on the Sanctuary's "Top 10 Accomplishments" (see Kohola Connection - dispersed by Sanctuary) read like the claims on unproven herbal supplement labels with phrases like 'enhanced protection', 'engagement' and such. They provide little or nothing in the way of hard numbers that could be used for a real evaluation of effectiveness. Three of the Top 10 are, in fact, actually the same thing: 'Community Connections', 'Enhanced Resource Protection Through Coordinated Management', and 'Increasing Ocean Awareness and Literacy'. They all fall under the simple title of Public Education, and that has been the Sanctuary's real accomplishment. That also should be it's main forward looking goal.

☐ Agree with KFTO

☐ Disagree

☒ Unsure